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DALTON-IN-FURNESS
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1937.



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J. SINKINSON & SON, PRINTERS,
1938.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT, 1937.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness
Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

As directed by the Ministry of Health it is my duty to present to you, at the end of each year, a report of the health and sanitary conditions of the District under my supervision as your Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.—From the reports which your Sanitary Inspector presents to the Health Committee each month, it must be obvious that the district is the subject of regular systematic inspection, and I am convinced that no one could be more solicitous for the sanitary welfare of the people than he is, and I always feel quite confident of his conscientious discharge of duty.

WATER SUPPLY.—The undertakers for the water supply to your district are the Barrow Corporation, the supply being derived from their reservoir at Poaka Beck.

At no time has there been any shortage, and its quality has been beyond suspicion. With a view to the improvement of house supplies, many renewals of service mains have been effected; unfortunately there are certain dwellings which, on account of their high position which cannot be served from the mains. Newton, Pennington Town End and Tunnel Cottages are now receiving their supply at an increased pressure.

DRAINAGE—PARADISE.—I am very pleased to be able to report that the scheme for the sewerage and sewage disposal of this Hamlet, comprising eight houses has been completed, the sewage discharging into a septic tank constructed upon land acquired for the purpose.

1

ASKAM.—The remodelling of the system of sewerage and sewage disposal for Askam has had the anxious attention of the Council for some years, and only the question of the very heavy cost has prevented the scheme being carried out. As the matter stands at present, your Surveyor informs me that as a first instalment to the full scheme plans are being prepared by a Consulting Engineer for the provision of Disposal Works. Doing the work in sections, although very slow, will lighten the burden of cost.

LINDAL SEWAGE WORKS.—I have always tried to think that these works were acting in a satisfactory manner and that a fairly pure effluent was being discharged into the stream, but the farmer through whose land the stream flows continued to make complaints and it was decided to lay a 21 inch pipe from the works to the Railway embankment.

HOUSING.—We have arrived at another stage in our housing progress; 96 houses were inspected and represented for closure and demolition, out of these, the Council decided that 89 should be represented, and we now await the Ministry's Report on an Inquiry held by one of their Inspectors.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the Year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under							
(b) )	...	....	....	....	....	....	66
(i) By the Local Authority	...				...	...	47
(ii) By other Local Authorities					...	...
(iii) By other bodies and persons					...	...	19
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :							
(i) By the Local Authority	...				...	...	47
(ii) By other bodies or persons					...	...
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—							
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)							1007
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							1007

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	95
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	139
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the Year without service of formal notices :—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	55
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>	
A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	0
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal statutory notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
B.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

C.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act,
1930:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	0

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Although, I feel that milk producers realise more and more that there is an urgent desire for pure milk, yet, one could not visit many of our dairy farms without coming to the conclusion that there is need for still greater care. Grooming of cattle and personal cleanliness of the milkers are greatly neglected, one would not expect that such a simple thing as washing the hands before commencing to milk would be neglected, but it is.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.—I cannot add anything to what I have said in previous reports as to the condition of the Slaughter houses, there is no improvement. With regard to the meat inspection, this is regularly carried out, and by an Inspector who is well qualified to do the work. In this connection I append hereto a table showing the amount of meat condemned during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION, 1937.

MEAT FOUND DISEASED, UNSOUND AND UNFIT FOR FOOD,
CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED.

TUBERCULOSIS.	OTHER DISEASES.	WEIGHT LBS.
Cattle 3 Tuberculous	...	1765
Pigs 1	...	105
Sheep 2	...	54
	(Edema)	
		1924

UN SOUND OFFALS.

TUBERCULOUS.	OTHER DISEASES.	WEIGHT LBS.
Cattle 3 All Offals	...	300
Pigs 1 All Offal	...	25
Sheep 2 "	...	20
1 Head, Lungs, Liver	...	54
2 Lungs	...	12
1 Tripe	...	40
1 Lungs & Liver	...	24
1 " Diaphragm	...	16
1 Tripe &	...	44
1 Lungs	...	12
1 " Kidneys	...	14
1 Lungs, Head	...	42
1 Lungs Head	...	42
1 " Diaphragm	...	46
1 "	...	12
1 Head	...	30
1 Lungs, Liver Diaphragm	...	28
Livers 9	Parasitic	108
,, 4	Abscesses	48
,, 2	Cysts	42
		941
5 Cows were found to be in calf when slaughtered.		
Weight of Calves	Slink	200

REFUSE REMOVAL.—This does not appear to be a very attractive term, but I think I may safely say that, efficiently carried out, it is one of the most valuable departments of Sanitary Administration, and one which adds, almost, more than any other to the health and comfort of the people.

In your district I feel that it is very well carried out, and as evidence of this I give herewith a table showing the amount of work done.

ASHPITS CLEANSING, 1937.

I append hereto a table furnished by your Inspector, who has charge of this work, which shows great activity in this department of Sanitary Administration,

1937 Month	No. Ashpits Emptied	No. Loads San. Bins	No. Loads Ashpits	No. Street Bins Emptied	Total Loads
Jan.	155	88	67	300	230
Feb.	149	88	61	60	162
March	148	88	60	160	160
April	227	88	139	100	137
May	133	88	95	180	227
June	155	88	67	130	111
July	164	88	76	230	93
Aug.	187	88	99	195	116
Sept.	161	88	73	120	99
Oct.	143	88	55	120	103
Nov.	149	88	61	125	106
Dec.	108	88	20	110	92
	1,879	1,056	753	1,830	1,547

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 7,994.

Population (1931 Census) 10,339.

„ (1936 Estimated) 10,479.

Number of inhabited houses (1937) 2,940.

Rateable Value £39,000.

Amount produced by a Penny Rate £143.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Births	Legitimate	Total	M	F.	Birth-rate
					per 1000
	Illegitimate	138	65	73	13.1
		3	2	1	
		141	66	75	

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRTHS:—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.	Rate per 1000
Dalton &	19	23	26	17	85	12.3
Newton						
Lindal &	1	2	5	3	11	12.8
Marton						
Askam &	8	4	17	16	45	16.4
Ireleth						
Totals	28	29	48	36	141	13.1

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.—There has been 1 male illegitimate child born and 2 females.

DEATHS.—The actual number of deaths occurring in the district was 152, of these four were non-residents and were transferred away; but 39 deaths of residents occurred outside the district and were transferred making the corrected number of deaths 187, producing a death-rate of 17.8 per 1000, last year there were 126 deaths, the death-rate being 12.6 per 1000.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS:—

	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Total M.	Total F.	Rate per 1000
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Dalton &	24	19	18	12	10	7	12	21	64	59	17.6
Newton											
Lindal &	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	8	7	17.5
Marton											
Askam &	9	6	4	7	9	4	10		32	17	17.9
Ireleth											
Totals	37	27	24	20	20	12	23	24	104	83	17.8

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED:—

	Dalton and Newton		Lindal and Marton		Askam and Ireleth		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	Under 1 year	4	3	1	1			5	4
Between 1 & 65	31	25	4	3	13	10	48	38
Upwards of 65	29	31	3	3	19	7	51	41
Totals	64	59	8	7	32	17	104	83

INFANTILE DEATHS.—The infantile death-rate is found by taking the number of deaths of infants under one year of age by the registered births of the district, and I find that at this age period there have been 9 deaths giving an infantile death-rate of 63.9 per 1000 births. Last year there were 10 infantile deaths, the rate per 1000 births being 64.1.

DISTRIBUTION AND CAUSES.

	Dalton & Newton		Lindal & Marton		Askam & Ireleth		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Pneumonia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Congenital Defects	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	4
Bronchitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Premature Birth ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	4	3	1	1	—	—	5	4	
Death-rate per 1000 Births ...		82.3		181.8		00.0		63.9	

The Infantile Death-rate for the Lindal and Marton District seems to be especially high, but it is not really so when we remember that we are dealing with such a very low birth-rate; of the nine recorded deaths I think we may safely say that three of these arose from preventable causes.

In connection with Infantile Deaths I have been furnished through the kindness of Nurse Tomkinson, who is in charge of the Dalton Centre of the activities of the centre from day to day. The Medical Officer in charge of the Clinic is Dr. Catlow. The Centre is open on Tuesdays from 9-30 to 12 for Minor Ailments, Nurse in attendance.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.—Alternate Wednesdays, Dr. Plowright.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—Thursdays 9-30 to 12. Dr. Catlow.
1-30 to 4 Child Welfare. Dr. Catlow.

DENTAL CLINIC.—Mr. Hodgson, L.D.S., in attendance.
Tuesdays 10 to 12 and 2 to 4.

Welfare Centre—No. of times open in 1937	49
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No. of Individual Children attending :—

Under 1 year of age	209
From 1—2 years of age	142
Over 2 years of age	...	...	...	144
Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	66

TUBERCULAR DISEASES. *

The Tuberculosis Work is undertaken by the County Officials who are well equipped for the task. It is unfortunate that we are unable to impress upon the general public the very great importance of treatment being commenced at the very early appearance of suspicious symptoms, when once the diagnosis has become obvious of the hope of a permanent case is considerably lessened.

NEW CASES	Dalton and Newton		Lindal and Marton		Askam and Ireleth		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1			1		4	1
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	1	3					1	1

DEATHS

Pulmonary Tuberculosis								
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis			2			1	2	1

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	M.	F.	M.	F.
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...		...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	...
10—15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
23—35	1	1	...		...	...	...	1
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	4	1	1	4	...	...	1	2

The table following shows the number of deaths registered and the death-rates recorded during the years 1913 to 1937 in the Administrative County, and the number of deaths recorded in your District for the year 1937 as a comparison.

Year.	Population.	Deaths.			Death-rate per 1,000 of population		
		Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	TOTAL	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (all forms)
1913	1,749,659	1,441	527	1,968	0.82	0.30	1.12
1914	1,748,289	1,523	572	2,095	0.87	0.32	1.19
1915	1,665,488	1,614	555	21,69	0.96	0.34	1.30
1916	1,620,062	1,685	471	2,156	1.04	0.29	1.33
1917	1,568,656	1,584	466	2,050	1.00	0.30	1.30
1918	1,537,951	1,652	435	2,087	1.07	0.28	1.35
1919	1,662,716	1,339	358	1,697	0.80	0.22	1.02
1920	1,721,967	1,323	396	1,719	0.76	0.23	0.99
1921	1,758,738	1,301	376	1,677	0.73	0.21	0.95
1922	1,766,027	1,362	389	1,751	0.77	0.22	0.99
1923	1,772,658	1,250	412	1,662	0.70	0.23	0.93
1924	1,782,800	1,215	339	1,554	0.68	0.19	0.87
1925	1,785,500	1,205	361	1,566	0.67	0.20	0.87
1926	1,788,500	1,158	286	1,444	0.64	0.16	0.80
1927	1,800,300	1,105	296	1,401	0.61	0.16	0.77
1928	1,811,000	1,066	287	1,353	0.58	0.15	0.74
1929	1,811,700	1,102	279	1,381	0.60	0.15	0.76
1930	1,806,960	1,046	253	1,299	0.57	0.14	0.71
1931	1,804,400	1,021	266	1,287	0.56	0.14	0.71
1932	1,802,700	975	238	1,213	0.54	0.13	0.67
1933	1,802,730	1,010	232	1,242	0.55	0.12	0.68
1934	1,807,090	848	231	1,079	0.46	0.12	0.59
1935	1,821,100	855	189	1,044	0.46	0.10	0.57
1936	1,842,900	859	192	1,048	0.46	0.10	0.56
*1937	10,479	0	3	3	0.00	0.28	0.28

* DALTON DISTRICT.

We can again congratulate ourselves upon a very favourable comparison with the rest of the county, and one may trust that with the spread of the knowledge that Tubercular diseases are curable, if taken in time we may have even better results.

CANCER DEATHS.—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000
Dalton & Newton	8	4	12	
Lindal & Marton		1		
Askam & Ireleth	2	2	4	
Totals	10	7	17	1.61

The County death-rate from Cancer for the year 1936 is equal to 1.60, for the rest of England and Wales the rate per 1000 is 1.62.

Age periods at which the deaths occurred and organs affected.

	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 up	Totals			
						M	F	M	F
Stomach	...	1		1		1	2	4	1
Liver	...						1		1
Intestine	...						1		1
Uterus	...			2	1				3
Oesophagus	...				1				1
Pancreas	...			1	1				2
Breast	...						1		1
Throat	...				1				1
Rectum	...						2		2
Totals	...	1	1	2	4	1	4	3	10
									7

During year 1936 there were 13 deaths from the various manifestations of Cancer, the rate per 1000 then being 1.24, so although there is a slight increase in the number it is not sufficient to create any alarm, and one may hope for still better results if the public can be made to realise that Cancer is a curable disease if taken in time.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.—There have only been two deaths, viz: from Whooping Cough, from diseases of the Zymotic type, equal to a death-rate of 0.19 per 1000.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Dalton and Newton		Lindal and Marton		Askam and Ireleth		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	14	18	1	...	14	24	29	42
Diphtheria	3	11	...	...	1	4	4	15
Erysipelas	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	3
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	19	31	1		15	29	35	60

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

	under 1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Cases removed to Hospital.		
	Totals	1 & 2	3 & 4	5 & 10	15 & 20	35 & 45	45 & 65	up- ward						
Scarlet Fever	71	...	1	1	7	3	36	15	4	3	...	1	...	58
Diphtheria	19	...	...	...	1	3	8	4	2	1	...	...	...	19
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	95		1	1	8	6	44	19	6	7	1	2	...	80

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease was prevalent in Dalton and Askam throughout the first nine months of the year, but the cases were usually of a very mild type, indeed Scarlet Fever, in the last few years appears to have almost entirely changed its type and become a very much milder disease.

INFLUENZA.—Especially during the first three months of the year Influenza was very extensively prevalent and gave rise to 19 deaths.

CHILD BIRTH.—There was one death from Child Birth in a girl aged 23 years.

PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS.—From these diseases 31 deaths have been registered, 15 from Bronchitis and 16 from Pneumonia.

LABORATORY WORK.—Every facility is given to the Medical Practitioners in the District for Bacteriological Examinations, and Antitoxines are issued free. Fifteen throat swabs have been examined during the year and there has been one blood test.

In concluding my report I must not omit to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council and my Colleagues for their ever ready co-operation and support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,

L.R.C.P. LOND., M.R.C.S. ENG., D.P.H. LOND.

Medical Officer of Health.

20th April, 1938.

